

THE GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk and the Sudbury Union.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1906.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and
of the West Suffolk County Council.

Population 1891, 2375 ; 1901, 1975. Area in Acres 2246. Number of persons per
acre 0.9.

Inhabited houses 456. Average Number of persons per house 4.3.

Geological formation: boulder clay with intercalating beds of drift sands and gravel,
Chalk underlying on highest ground at a depth of about 130 ft., less in the valleys.
Superficially alluvium.

The Parish of Glemsford, which formed part of the Melford Rural District, obtained
Urban Powers on the 1st October, 1896 and became a separate district. This is the
Tenth Annual Report to the Glemsford Urban District Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 32, equivalent to a birth-rate of 16.2 per 1000 of the population. The number is below the average when compared with the birth-rates during the previous seven years, which were as follows:

		1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Births	...	71	47	50	40	46	46	41	32
Birth-rate	...	29.8	19.7	25.4	20.3	23.2	23.2	20.7	16.2

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 25, to which have to be added 3 deaths of persons belonging to the district, which occurred in the Workhouse, Sudbury, making the total deaths 28 equivalent to a death rate of 14.1 per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death rates during the previous seven years were as follows:

		1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Deaths	...	33	30	50	30	37	26	32	28
Death-rate	...	13.9	12.6	25.4	14.2	18.2	13.1	16.2	14.1

Infantile Mortality. There were 2 deaths under one year of age equivalent to 62.5 per 1000 of births registered.

The following is the record for the last seven years:

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Deaths of children under one year	7	7	18	7	7	6	4	2
Rate per 1000 of births registered	98.5	149.0	360.0	163.1	152.1	130.4	97.7	62.5

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. One from Membranous Croup.

Deaths from other Causes. There were four deaths from Phthisis, two from Cancer, three from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, four from Heart Diseases, fourteen of the deaths were of persons over the age of 65.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION. The number of cases notified during the year was 25, and consisted of Diphtheria fifteen, Membranous Croup one, Erysipelas eight, Scarlet Fever one.

The cases of Diphtheria occurred during the Spring and Autumn, and were all of a very mild type and mostly among children. The cause of infection could not be traced to any insanitary conditions sufficient to account for the continued re-appearance of this disease. Disinfectants were used at the school offices and elsewhere. In some of the cases Antitoxin was injected.

One fatal case of Membranous Croup occurred in a child aged three years, in January; and about the same time one case of Scarlet Fever. This case was isolated at home and no further spread occurred.

WATER SUPPLY. Three of the public pumps have continued to yield a constant water supply. The well on Tye Green not being satisfactory, a sample of the water was sent me for analysis, and proved to be contaminated with traces of sewage. I therefore advised the Council to close the well, which was done, and the pump removed. The Angel Lane pump which for some years has been condemned, was also closed and the pump removed.

The Surveyor gives the following report on the new water works:

Continued progress has been made in the adoption of the water from the new Waterworks. At the present time there are 291 houses connected with the mains. Notices will shortly be served on owners of dwelling houses, who have not a proper supply of water, to provide such within a specified time. The Council have obtained powers from the Local Government Board, as the result of a local enquiry held in September last, to compel owners to provide their houses with water; the Board having decided that the charges for water levied by the Council are under the circumstances fair and reasonable. There is a little difficulty with water lying for some hours in the mains, it gets slightly coloured, owing to the presence of iron in the water, there is nothing really harmful in this and may be beneficial, nor is the discolouration always observable. Much is being made of this fact by those who opposed the Waterwork's scheme, and who think that water like air should be had for nothing. On the other hand there is an increasing majority of persons who are very well satisfied with the water supply. There is no doubt, as experienced in other places, that as the water is more freely used, in time, the trace of iron and also the hardness of the water will gradually diminish.

The average consumption per head, based on the number of houses connected and the average number of occupants is about 5½ gallons.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE. A new nine inch sewer to take the drainage from the highest part of Tye Green to the top of Hunt's Hill some 279 yards in length has been laid. For 73 yards of its course it drains what was an entirely undrained district, for the remainder of its course it replaces an old badly laid and defective drain. This new drain is provided with 19 house connections and 5 road gullies. Near the top end it is connected with the overflow and washout pipe from the tank on the Water Tower, an excellent arrangement for flushing the main.

GENERAL SANITATION

- 1 New house erected and inspected.
- 4 New pail closets constructed.
- 2 Privy cesspools converted into 1 pail closet and 1 water closet.
- 225 Inspections made.
- 3 Nuisances remedied by written notices.
- 40 " " by verbal notices.

H. L. TAYLOR, *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.*

Systematic as well as special inspections have been made throughout the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. No complaints have been received from H. M. Inspector of factories and workshops.

There are five factories, one of which is horsehair, and twenty-three workshops, including eight bakehouses. These were found satisfactory, and kept in accordance with their respective regulations and orders. Any sanitary defects to which attention was called were at once remedied.

List of outworkers were received and the dwellings when inspected were found satisfactory. These numbered 37.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There is only one registered Cowshed and Dairy in the district, all the cows are grass grazed. It has been inspected and fulfills all the requirements as prescribed in the model regulations 1905.

In addition to this there are eight persons who keep 2 or 3 cows each and have cowsheds for same and small dairies, they generally make butter, chiefly for themselves, though they sell some milk and butter to their neighbours. All of these have been inspected during the year, and were found to be kept in accordance to the provisions of the Dairy Cowshed and Milkshop Order. Some small defects in the drainage of two of the cowsheds were remedied.

Tabular statements, according to the form supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the district, are appended to the official reports. Also a tabular statement according to the form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.